

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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NEWS RELEASE



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STATE FERRY *MATANUSKA* SHIFTS TO BELLINGHAM RUN IN SEPTEMBER *COLUMBIA* GOES OFFLINE SEP. 26

The Alaska Marine Highway System will reduce Prince Rupert service to twice weekly beginning Wed. Sep. 26. The M/V *Matanuska*, previously scheduled to operate on the Prince Rupert-Skagway route through September, will replace the M/V *Columbia* on Bellingham run beginning Sep. 26 southbound in Ketchikan. This transition is one week earlier than previously published.

Passengers and vehicles scheduled to travel aboard the *Columbia* to Bellingham during this sailing will transfer to the *Matanuska* in Ketchikan. The *Matanuska* will sail the *Columbia*'s schedule for the remainder of September and continue operating the Bellingham-Skagway route during most of the winter season. Customers holding reservations on the southbound *Matanuska* sailing through and from Ketchikan to Prince Rupert for Wed. Sep 26 have been advised the sailing will terminate in Ketchikan. Customers have been accommodated on other vessels and sailings.

This change will require the cancellation of the *Matanuska*'s Prince Rupert-Skagway published service beginning Wed. Sep. 26 through the remainder of September. The cancelled sailings are: Wed. Sep. 26 Ketchikan to Prince Rupert, Sep. 26-29 Prince Rupert to Skagway, and Sep. 29-30 Skagway to Prince Rupert. Customers holding reservations on these sailings have been contacted and accommodated on other vessels or sailings.

For details regarding the revised schedule and on-line reservation requests, we encourage all travelers to visit the Alaska Marine Highway System web site: www.alaska.gov/ferry. Schedule and reservation assistance is also available by calling the System's Reservations Call Center: 1-800-642-0066 or 907-465-3941 or your local terminal or office.

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